

**In the Claims:**

Rewrite the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A coupling for transmitting ultrasound energy along an independent axis (A) between a tool receptacle (2) and a tool (3) separable after use with two oppositely directed contact means (4a, 4b) facing and spaced from one another and comprising a pre-stressing means (5) capable of ~~being prestressed axially by a prestressing means (5), pre-stressing said contact means toward, and~~ wherein at least one of said contact means (4a, 4b) has at least one of an axially directed linear contact tip and a pointform contact tip (6).

2. (Currently amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 1, wherein a plurality of pointform contact tips (6 6') are arranged in a ring configuration on at least one of said contact means and are spaced laterally apart forming at least one of said contact means (4a, 4b).

3. (Withdrawn - Previously amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said contact means (4a, 4b) comprises pointform contact tips (6) on each of said tool receptacle (2) and tool (3) directed into point contact with one another.

4. (Withdrawn - Previously amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said contact tips (6", 6""", 6""") extend linearly.

5. (Withdrawn - Previously amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 4, wherein said linearly extending contact tips (6') extend at least in part annularly.

6. (Withdrawn - Previously amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 5, wherein said contact tips (6') are ring shaped.

7. (Currently amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said pre-stressing means (5) ~~comprises~~ is an axially directed screw-thread biasing member extending between the tool (3) and tool receptacle (2).

8. (Previously amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 7, wherein said screw thread biasing member extends axially from said tool (3) into a threaded bore extending axially into said tool receptacle (2).